

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 22, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 19, 2014

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2014

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1915**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Nazarian and Achadjian**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Ian Calderon, Fox,**  
**Hall, Holden, Nestande, Patterson, and Wilk)**  
**(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Lara, and Vidak Vidak, and Wyland)**

February 19, 2014

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An act to amend ~~Section~~ *Sections 51220 and 51226.3* of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1915, as amended, Nazarian. Pupil instruction: *social sciences: Armenian Genocide*.

*Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer courses in specified areas of study, including social sciences. Existing law requires the instruction in social studies to provide instruction in, among other things, human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust.*

*This bill would enact the Armenian Genocide Education Act, and would provide that the instruction in human rights issues may also include particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of the Armenian Genocide.*

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to incorporate materials relating to civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources, consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social science and other requirements. Under existing law, the Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony into the teaching of human rights, genocide, and the Holocaust. Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality Commission and requires the commission to, among other things, recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education.

~~This bill would enact the Armenian Genocide Education Act and would instead require~~ *encourage* the department to ~~consider incorporating~~ *incorporate* materials relating to civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian genocide, and the Holocaust *Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides* into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources, consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social science. The bill would also ~~encourage the department to incorporate materials related to the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides into those publications, and would~~ require the commission to consider including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides in the recommended history-social science curriculum framework when the history-social science curriculum framework is revised as required by law. The bill would also specify that the Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness oral testimony, as defined, into the teaching of human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.

*This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 51226.3 of the Education Code, proposed by SB 1380, to be operative only if SB 1380 and this bill are chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 2015, and this bill is chaptered last.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
2     Armenian Genocide Education Act.

3     SEC. 2. *Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended to*  
4     *read:*

5     51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,  
6     inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:

7     (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for  
8     literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,  
9     listening, and speaking.

10    (b) (1) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of  
11    anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,  
12    psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the  
13    pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding  
14    the history, resources, development, and government of California  
15    and the United States of America; instruction in our American  
16    legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice  
17    systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal  
18    and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; the  
19    development of the American economic system, including the role  
20    of the entrepreneur and labor; the relations of persons to their  
21    human and natural environment; eastern and western cultures and  
22    civilizations; human rights issues, with particular attention to the  
23    study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust,  
24    and contemporary issues.

25    (2) *For purposes of this subdivision, genocide may include the*  
26    *Armenian Genocide. The "Armenian Genocide" means the torture,*  
27    *starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which included*  
28    *death marches into the Syrian desert, by the rulers of the Ottoman*  
29    *Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000 innocent people*  
30    *during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.*

31    (c) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than  
32    grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,  
33    reading, and writing the particular language.

34    (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities  
35    that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as  
36    required by Section 51222.

37    (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with  
38    emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific

1 investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems,  
2 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and  
3 interdependence of the sciences.

4 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop  
5 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into  
6 problem-solving procedures.

7 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,  
8 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic  
9 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

10 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer  
11 and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business  
12 education, or general agriculture.

13 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the  
14 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the  
15 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the  
16 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant  
17 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

18 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a  
19 knowledge of the provisions of the Vehicle Code and other laws  
20 of this state relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper  
21 acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation  
22 of the causes, ~~seriousness~~ *seriousness*, and consequences of traffic  
23 accidents, and to develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary  
24 for the safe operation of motor vehicles. A course in automobile  
25 driver education shall include education in the safe operation of  
26 motorcycles.

27 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

28 ~~SEC. 2.~~

29 *SEC. 3.* Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is amended to  
30 read:

31 51226.3. (a) (1) The department shall ~~consider incorporating~~  
32 *incorporate* into publications that provide examples of curriculum  
33 resources for teacher use those materials developed by publishers  
34 of nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources, or other public or  
35 private organizations, that are age-appropriate and consistent with  
36 the subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with  
37 civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, ~~the~~  
38 ~~Armenian genocide~~, and the Holocaust.

39 (2) The Legislature encourages the department to incorporate  
40 into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources

1 for teacher use those materials developed by publishers of  
2 nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources, or other public or  
3 private organizations, that are age-appropriate and consistent with  
4 the subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with  
5 the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.

6 (b) (1) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,  
7 rescuer, liberator, and witness oral testimony into the teaching of  
8 human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including, but not  
9 limited to, the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan  
10 genocides.

11 (2) As used in this subdivision, “oral testimony” means the  
12 firsthand accounts of significant historical events presented in a  
13 format that includes, but is not limited to, in-person testimony,  
14 video, or a multimedia option, such as a DVD or an online video.

15 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional  
16 development activities to provide teachers with content background  
17 and resources to assist them in teaching about civil rights, human  
18 rights violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian Genocide, and  
19 the Holocaust.

20 (d) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional  
21 development activities to provide teachers with content background  
22 and resources to assist them in teaching about the Great Irish  
23 Famine of 1845–50.

24 (e) The Great Irish Famine of 1845–50 shall be considered in  
25 the next cycle in which the history-social science curriculum  
26 framework and its accompanying instructional materials are  
27 adopted.

28 (f) When the history-social science curriculum framework is  
29 revised as required by law, the Instructional Quality Commission  
30 shall consider including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and  
31 Rwandan genocides in the recommended history-social science  
32 curriculum framework.

33 (g) The Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide  
34 adopted by the state board, pursuant to Section 51226, shall be  
35 made available to schools in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, as soon as  
36 funding is available for this purpose. In addition, the department  
37 shall make the curriculum available on its Internet Web site.

38 (h) For purposes of this article, “Armenian Genocide” means  
39 the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which  
40 included death marches into the Syrian desert, by the rulers of the

1 Ottoman Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000  
2 innocent people during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.

3 *SEC. 3.5. Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is amended*  
4 *to read:*

5 51226.3. (a) (1) ~~The State Department of Education shall~~  
6 ~~incorporate,~~ *department shall incorporate* into publications that  
7 provide examples of curriculum resources for teacher-use, *use*  
8 those materials developed by publishers of nonfiction, trade books,  
9 and primary sources, or other public or private organizations, that  
10 are age-appropriate and consistent with the subject frameworks  
11 on history and social science that deal with civil rights, human  
12 rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust.

13 (2) *The Legislature encourages the department to incorporate*  
14 *into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources*  
15 *for teacher use those materials developed by publishers of*  
16 *nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources, or other public or*  
17 *private organizations, that are age-appropriate and consistent*  
18 *with the subject frameworks on history and social science that*  
19 *deal with the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan*  
20 *genocides.*

21 (b) (1) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,  
22 rescuer, liberator, and witness *oral* testimony into the teaching of  
23 human rights, ~~genocide, and the Holocaust.~~ *the Holocaust, and*  
24 *genocide, including, but not limited to, the Armenian, Cambodian,*  
25 *Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.*

26 (2) *As used in this subdivision, "oral testimony" means the*  
27 *firsthand accounts of significant historical events presented in a*  
28 *format that includes, but is not limited to, in-person testimony,*  
29 *video, or a multimedia option, such as a DVD or an online video.*

30 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional  
31 development activities to provide teachers with content background  
32 and resources to assist *them* in teaching about civil rights, human  
33 rights violations, genocide, slavery, *the Armenian Genocide,* and  
34 the Holocaust.

35 (d) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional  
36 development activities to provide teachers with content background  
37 and resources to assist *them* in teaching about the Great Irish  
38 Famine of 1845–50.

39 (e) The Great Irish Famine of 1845–50 shall be considered in  
40 the next cycle in which the ~~history/social~~ *history-social* science

1 curriculum framework and its accompanying instructional materials  
2 are adopted.

3 (f) *When the history-social science curriculum framework is*  
4 *revised as required by law, the Instructional Quality Commission*  
5 *shall consider including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and*  
6 *Rwandan genocides in the recommended history-social science*  
7 *curriculum framework.*

8 (f)

9 (g) The Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide  
10 adopted by the ~~State Board of Education~~, *state board*, pursuant to  
11 Section 51226, shall be made available to schools in grades 7 to  
12 12, inclusive, as soon as funding is available for this purpose. In  
13 addition, the ~~State Department of Education~~ *department* shall make  
14 the curriculum available on its *Internet* Web site.

15 (h) *For purposes of this article, “Armenian Genocide” means*  
16 *the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which*  
17 *included death marches into the Syrian desert, by the rulers of the*  
18 *Ottoman Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000*  
19 *innocent people during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.*

20 SEC. 4. *Section 3.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to*  
21 *Section 51226.3 of the Education Code proposed by both this bill*  
22 *and Senate Bill 1380. It shall only become operative if (1) both*  
23 *bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1,*  
24 *2015, (2) each bill amends Section 51226.3 of the Education Code,*  
25 *and (3) this bill is enacted after Senate Bill 1380, in which case*  
26 *Section 3 of this bill shall not become operative.*